

I support media diversity

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The very fact that the major networks and many of the other "news" sources under their control have been silent on this issue is testament to the potential for bias and corruption that is resulting from allowing our FCC to become captured by this industry.

The public comments submitted to the FCC by individuals have been overwhelmingly opposed to media consolidation. Americans understand that the public interest is not being served by deregulation that reduces competition, and expect their FCC to regulate the media rather than foster and accommodate their aggressive monopolistic intent.

I urge you to not to weaken the rules that help preserve competition and diversity among the owners of American media. The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding. Please re-instate the traditional FCC media ownership rules for the sake of competition and democracy.

In addition to the official hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA, I strongly urge the FCC to hold additional hearings elsewhere around the nation to solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Randy Peltier
3701 N. Chehalem Dr.
Newberg, OR 97132

